

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00556 251428Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 251430Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3619

S E C R E T AMMAN 0556

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS DEFENSE/ISA FOR ASST. SEC ELLSWORTH,
SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, JO

SUBJ: KING'S INTEREST IN AIRCRAFT

1. EVENING JANUARY 22 RIFAI TOLD ME KING WANTED HIM
TO PASS ON TO ME HIS DESIRE TO BE INFORMED, IF WE COULD
OF FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY DOD IN SELECTING
SINGLE ENGINE F-16 OVER TWIN F-17. RIFAI NOTED IRAN
STILL VERY INTERESTED IN F-17 AND MIGHT BUY IT ANYWAY.

2. TOLD RIFAI THAT I WOULD FORWARD REQUEST IN CONNECTION
WITH PREVIOUS ONE WHICH I HAD MADE FOR BRIEFING TEAM
ON A-4'S FOR JORDAN, ALSO REQUESTED BY KING. IF SUCH
A TEAM APPROVED IN WASHINGTON THEY MIGHT AT SAME TIME ALSO
COME PREPARED TO DISCUSS F-16 AND F-17 TO EXTENT THAT
POSSIBLE WITH A FRIENDLY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. KING
HAS PREVIOUSLY TOLD ME OF HIS INTEREST IN F-17 OR
F-16 AS A FOLLOW-ON TO F-5E SOMETIME IN THE DISTANT
FUTURE.

3. RECOGNIZE DECISIONS ON THESE QUESTIONS COMPLEX
AND TIME-CONSUMING, BUT GIVEN NATURE OF INTEREST IN
F-16/F-17 AND FACTORS RELATING TO DOD CHOICE, WOULD
HOPE WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO GO THROUGH REALEASABILITY
EXERCISE (AS WE APPARENTLY ARE ON A-4'S) BEFORE BEING ABLE

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TO PRESENT KING BRIEFING ON THESE AIRCRAFT. ALSO, GIVEN

TENTATIVE NATURE OF KING'S OWN FEELINGS ABOUT A-4, BELIEVE
WE SHOULD NOT FURTHER PROLONG THE PROCESS OF PROVIDING
BRIEFING ON CHARACTERISTICS OF VARIOUS MODELS WHILE WE WAIT FOR
A DECISION ON RELEASIBILITY. KING WILL UNDERSTAND THAT A
PERSONAL BRIEFING FOR HIM ON A-4'S AND F-16/F-17 DOES NOT COMMIT
THE US TO SELL IF WE TELL HIM SO.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY PROCUREMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JAN 1975
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN00556
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750029-0039
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750120/aaaaarxe.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 AUG 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING'S INTEREST IN AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MASS, US, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006